

Form FS 405 (revised)
NOV. 1951

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Foreign Service of the United States of America

BIOGRAPHIC DATA FORM

NAME

ALFRED, Günther

NATIONALITY

German

PRESENT POSITION

Journalist

DATA AND REMARKS

Alfing, a journalist now residing in Munich, was born April 19, 1897 in Schweinfurt, the son of a factory owner. 1915-16 Volksschule in Schweinfurt. 1916-25 humanistisches Gymnasium in Schweinfurt. 1925-27 studied sociology and political science at universities of Munich, Königsberg, Berlin, and Heidelberg. 1927 Dr. science. pol., Heidelberg. 1927-37 assistant at the Institute for Social and Political Sciences at Heidelberg. 1927-37 visited nearly all Western European countries. 1932 first book, Wissenschaften und die politische Zukunft (Wissenschaften, a referring to all countries lying between Germany and Russia). 1932 transferred to Berlin as free-lance writer; contributed to Die Zeit. 1932 became a non-permanent member of Secretariat of the League of Nations in Geneva. 1933 second book, Deutschland in der Weltpolitik; traveled to Italy and Yugoslavia. Oct. 1933 political editor of Münchener Neueste Nachrichten. 1934 third book, Kampf der Weltpolitik. 1934 editor-in-chief of Münchener Neueste Nachrichten and Die Zeit. 1935 in Geneva and France for MNV. 1936 in London for MNV. 1936 trips to Egypt, Palestine, and Syria for MNV and Illustrierte Presse. 1937 fourth book, Handbuch. Juden. Arbeiter in Palästina. April-August 1938 in Berlin for MNV and Illustrierte Presse; interview with President Roosevelt. January-February 1939 in Egypt. Summer 1939 visited the Pope in Rome. August 1939 published pamphlet and series of articles on "Krieg, die verhindert wurden", which he claims to have published to help avert the war. 1939-41 editor of Das 12. Jahrbuch, new name for Die Zeit. 1939-February 1942 editor-in-chief of MNV. Autumn 1939-summer 1940 honorary post in German Foreign Office. Autumn 1940 refused post offered him by Ribbentrop to head the Information Section of the Foreign Office with the rank of Minister. Autumn and December 1940 lecturer in Stockholm; visited Minister Loh in Paris. May 1941 visit to Lisbon. January 1942 fifth book, Der Massaker Kattinani, chiefly about U.S. February 1942 volunteered for army service, trained as war correspondent; private, sergeant, lieutenant. April 1942 war correspondent in Russia. December 1942 ill; returned to Germany. 1943 business for publication Signal in Rome and Berlin. 1944 published Das Volk der Nationen. Trips to Italy, Spain, Denmark, Paris for Signal; guest of Ambassador Dieckhoff in Madrid. October 1944-March 1945 wrote "Report" reports for Hitler, Himmler, and Seyss-Inquardt. December 1944 visit to Copenhagen and to German SSIA agent in Stockholm. January 1945 active in Schellenberg-Seyss negotiations for sending remaining Jews in Germany to Switzerland and Portugal. Jan.-April 1945 lived in Berlin, nominally still in army; did journalistic work for Signal; frequent meetings with Major Salm of the Abwehr. Joined SSIA July 1, 1945 (no. 6 253 921; 25 September 11, 1938, advancing to rank of Sturmbannführer (major) on Nov. 9, 1945; served for a time with SD (Security Service) Leitabschnitt Munich. June 1945 arrested by CIC in Bad Reichenhagen. Nov. 1945 three-week trip through U.S. Zone with Minister Wentig, both escorted by two American officers; purpose of trip to study effect of American ID on Germans. Denazification court at Garmisch-Partenkirchen declared him a fellow-traveler, fined 12,000 Marks. He claimed to have rejected racial and religious persecutions from

Submit to Department in Triplicate

CLASSIFICATION
(UNCLASSIFIED)

Continue Data and Remarks on Plain Sheets

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1933-254745

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2003 2006

FOR COORDINATION WITH State

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

UNCLASSIFIED

-2-

WIRSING, Giselher (cont'd)

the SS and to have published articles in Das XX. Jahrhundert that were termed "anti-dictatorial" by the Kreis der Kulturschaffenden, and the magazine was banned in 1944. In February 1950 a Munich appeal court reconsidered his de-nazification status and confirmed his classification as a fellow-traveler (Mitläufer) but treated him as a lesser offender and thereby reduced his fine from RM 2000 to RM 500. The appeal court found that he was no convinced National Socialist but that he had written many pro-Nazi articles. An extenuating circumstance was found in the attempts that he had made to improve relations with the church. Wirsing became a member of the editorial staff of the Stuttgart publication, Christ und Welt. In 1951 he published another book, Schritt aus dem Nichts. Perspektiven am Ende der Revolutionen (Verlag Eugen Diederichs, Düsseldorf-Köln). He is married and has one child.

UNCLASSIFIED

BEST AVAILABLE COPY